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Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2006 4:39 PM
To: 'MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov'
Subject: MLPAComments: Marine Reserve Areas

Dear MLPA Staff,

We operate the Beachhopper II Dive Charter vessel in the Monterey and Carmel Bay areas. We transport divers all around the peninsula seeking to observe and photo our great underwater coastline. The 1300 divers we transport each year have enjoyed the best of the best especially in the current marine reserves. In recent years the difference in diving in and outside the reserve is most noticeable. Size, differential species and health is most apparent. Our near shore nursery's have been most impacted by the improper and harvesting of certain species in the wrong place and wrong times. This is one reason we have disallowed spear fishing from our vessel.

Having been part of the volunteer aquarium staff of divers and seeing and understanding the current trends the degradation of fish populations we believe it boils down to poor fisheries management. We know of the different plans being considered and we cannot emphasize enough that we need to expand the reserves especially in those areas that harbor the nurseries to all the fish. We also know the fishing industry as a whole cannot normally ever come to a responsible agreement that protects the harvest and sets realistic goals for continued healthy harvests in the future. If you compare it to the squid harvesting boats they are doing the same thing, greed, mismanagement and over fishing have pretty much all most wiped out the normally healthy harvest or squid. We hope the staff takes a realistic approach that will help regenerate the fisheries for everyone to enjoy. It is for that same reason we support the artificial reef system and create more areas which can harbor and grow specie counts in our area. A good combination of marine reserves, fishing seasons, fishing methods and the creation of new fisheries areas makes good sense. The more areas that we rejuvenate the more our community will benefit economically in the future for recreation, fishing and keeping Monterey Bay the Jewel of California.

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